<u>WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:</u>

1            1.      A system for authorizing access to digital assets, the system
2     comprising:
3            a global authentication authority, wherein the global authentication authority is
4     communicably coupled to a global communication network;
5            a network interface device associated with a customer premises, wherein the
6     network interface device is communicably coupled to the global communication network and
7     to a local communication network; and
8            a local authentication authority associated with the network interface device,
9     wherein the local authentication authority is operable to authenticate a plurality of digital
10    assets maintained in relation to the customer premises, and communicably coupled to the
11    local communication network.

1            2.      The system of claim 1, wherein the global authentication authority is
2     operable to authenticate the network interface device, and to implicitly authenticate at least
3     one of the plurality of digital assets maintained in relation to the customer premises.

1            3.      The system of claim 2, wherein implicitly authenticating at least one of
2     the plurality of digital assets maintained in relation to the customer premises includes
3     accessing a digital security device associated with at least one of the plurality of digital assets
4     maintained in relation to the customer premises.

1            4.      The system of claim 3, wherein authenticating the network interface
2     device includes registering the at least one digital security device associated with at least one
3     of the plurality of digital assets maintained in relation to the customer premises.

1            5.      The system of claim 3, wherein at least one of the global authentication
2     authority and the local authentication authority is operable to issue and store at least one
3     digital security device.

1            6.      The system of claim 3, wherein the network interface device is further
2     operable to access the at least one digital security device from at least one of the plurality of
3     digital assets maintained in relation to the customer premises, and to register the at least one
4     digital security device in relation to at least one of: the global authentication authority and the
5     local authentication authority.

1        7.     The system of claim 3, wherein the digital security device is a digital

2  certificate.

1        8.     The system of claim 3, wherein the digital security device is a digital

2  pass.

1        9.     The system of claim 1, wherein the local communication network

2  extends within the customer premises, and wherein the global communication network

3  extends external to the customer premises.

1        10.    The system of claim 1, wherein the digital assets are selected from a

2  group consisting of: content objects and customer premises equipment.

1        11.    The system of claim 10, wherein the content objects are selected from

2  a group consisting of: recorded audio, recorded live audio, live video, email, live chat, live

3  voice, voicemail, and games.

1        12.    The system of claim 10, wherein the customer premises equipment is

2  selected from a group consisting of: video recorder, audio recorder, storage device, personal

3  computer, PDA, mobile telephone, dish antenna, television, refrigerator, and security

4  equipment.

1        13.    A system for authorizing access to digital assets, the system

2  comprising:

3         a first digital asset source, wherein the first digital asset source is

4  communicably coupled to a plurality of digital assets maintained in relation to a customer

5  premises, and wherein the first digital asset source is communicably coupled to a first

6  communication network;

7         a first authentication authority associated with the first digital asset source;

8         a second digital asset source operable to request a digital asset from the first

9  digital asset source, wherein the second digital asset source is communicably coupled to a

10  second communication network; and

11        a second authentication authority associated with the second digital asset

12  source.

1          14.     The system of claim 13, wherein the customer premises is a first

2 customer premises, and wherein the second digital asset source is maintained in relation to a

3 second customer premises.

1          15.     The system of claim 13, wherein the first authentication authority is a

2 local authentication authority, and wherein the second authentication authority is a global

3 authentication authority.

1          16.     The system of claim 13, wherein the system further comprises a global

2 communication network that communicably couples the first communication network and the

3 second communication network, wherein the system further comprises a network interface

4 device associated with the first digital asset source, wherein the first communication network

5 is a local communication network, wherein the first network interface device is

6 communicably coupled to the first communication network and to the global communication

7 network, wherein the first authentication authority is a first local authentication authority

8 associated with the first network interface device, wherein the first local authentication

9 authority is operable to authenticate a plurality of digital assets maintained in relation to the

10 first digital asset source, wherein the system further comprises a second network interface

11 device associated with the second digital asset source, wherein the second communication

12 network is a local communication network, wherein the second network interface device is

13 communicably coupled to the second communication network and to the global

14 communication network, wherein the second authentication authority is a second local

15 authentication authority associated with the second network interface device, wherein the

16 second local authentication authority is operable to authenticate a plurality of digital assets

17 maintained in relation to the second digital asset source.

1          17.     A method for authorizing access to digital assets, the method

2 comprising:

3          receiving access information from a network interface device; and

4          based at least in part on the access information, implicitly authenticating a

5 digital asset associated with the network interface device.

1          18.     The method of claim 17, wherein the access information includes a

2 security device received from a one of: a global authentication authority and a local

3 authentication authority.

1         19.    The method of claim 17, wherein the network interface device is
2   associated with a customer premises, and wherein authenticating the network interface device
3   includes receiving at least one digital security device associated with a digital asset
4   maintained in relation to the customer premises.

1         20.    The method of claim 19, wherein authenticating the network interface
2   device further includes registering the at least one digital security device associated with the
3   digital asset maintained in relation to the customer premises.

1         21.    The method of claim 17, wherein the digital asset is a content object.

1         22.    The method of claim 21, wherein the content object is selected from a
2   group consisting of: a recorded audio, a recorded audio, a live video, a recorded video, an
3   email, a live chat, and a game.

1         23.    The method of claim 17, wherein the digital asset is a customer
2   premises equipment.

1         24.    The method of claim 23, wherein the customer premises equipment is
2   selected from a group consisting of: a video recorder, an audio recorder, a storage device, a
3   personal computer, a PDA, a mobile telephone, a dish antenna, a television, a refrigerator,
4   and a security equipment.

1         25.    The method of claim 17, wherein the customer premises equipment
2   includes a gate lock, and a camera.